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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,702	02/22/2002	Gregory P. Fitzpatrick	BOC9-2001-0025 (271)	1267
40987	7590	10/07/2005	EXAMINER	
AKERMAN SENTERFITT			THAI, CANG G	
P. O. BOX 3188			ART UNIT	
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33402-3188			PAPER NUMBER	
			3629	

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

*He*

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/081,702

Applicant(s)

FITZPATRICK ET AL.

Examiner

Cang G. Thai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

The amendment filed on 07/26/2005 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,470,338 (RIZZO ET AL.).

As for claim 1, RIZZO discloses a method of connecting businesses through common interests and for facilitating business relationship among businesses comprising:

Identifying a plurality of businesses to participate in an online business registry  
{See Fig. 5, Element 280};

storing business profiles comprising business attributes in an online business registry, wherein each business profile is associated with one of the identified businesses {See Fig. 1B, Element 250};

responsive to a query from an inquiring business, searching said online business registry to locate at least one business having a business profile including at least one business attribute corresponding to said query {See Fig. 1B, Element 260}; and

establishing at least one communications link between said inquiring business and said located business according to at least one business attribute of said business profile of said located business, wherein said identified business comprise said inquiring business and said located business {See Fig. 1B, Element 270}.

As for claim 2, RIZZO discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said online business registry conforms to a Universal Description Discovery and Integration (UDDI) specification, and wherein said searching step comprises searching said online business registry according to said query, wherein said specified business attribute is common to said inquiring business {See Fig. 1B, Element 290}.

As for claim 3, RIZZO discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said storing step comprises storing business attributes selected from the group consisting of business identity information, business description information, and communications information {See Fig. 1C, Element 340}.

As for claim 4, RIZZO discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said establishing a communications link step comprises extracting said communications information from said business profile of said located business, wherein said online business registry categorizes business profiles according to at least one of business function and market segment, and wherein said online business registry includes security features to restrict

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access to business profile information based upon established categories. {See Fig. 1C, Element 360}.

As for claim 5, RIZZO discloses the method according to claim 3, wherein said storing step further comprises:

defining access rights to said business profiles {See Fig. 2, Element 40};

defining permissible communications links and points of contact as business attributes within said business profiles {See Fig. 3, Element 180}; and

defining selected business attributes of said business profiles as private {See Fig. 4, Element 220}.

As for claim 6, RIZZO discloses the method of claim 3, wherein said establishing a communications link step further comprises authenticating at least said inquiring business, and wherein selected ones of said business attributes are exposed only to inquiring businesses having corresponding business attributes. {See Fig. 5, Element 280}.

As for claim 7, RIZZO discloses a method of connecting businesses through common interests comprising:

storing business profiles for a plurality of businesses, said business profiles comprising business attributes in an online business registry, wherein each business profile is associated with one of said plurality of businesses {See Fig. 1B, Element 250};

responsive to a query from an inquiring business specifying at least one business attribute, locating within said online business registry business profiles corresponding to said specified business attribute {See Fig. 1B, Element 260};

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identifying within said located business profiles references to other business profiles contained within said online business registry {See Fig. 1B, Element 270}; and

determining whether said other business profiles include business attributes corresponding to said query, wherein said plurality of businesses comprise businesses associated with said located business profiles, businesses associated with said other business profiles, and said inquiring business {See Fig. 1B, Element 290}.

As for claim 8, RIZZO discloses the method of claim 7, further comprising:

establishing a communications link between said inquiring business and at least one of said other businesses having a business attribute corresponding to said query, wherein the communication link is established according to business attributes of said at least one other business {See Fig. 1C, Element 360}.

As for claim 9, RIZZO discloses the method of claim 7, wherein said locating step locates within said online business registry business profiles corresponding to said specified business attribute, wherein said specified business attribute is a business identity {See Fig. 2, Element 40}.

As for claim 10, RIZZO discloses the method of claim 7, wherein said locating step comprises locating in said online business registry, business profiles associated with said specified business attribute of said query, wherein said specified business attribute is common to said inquiring business {See Fig. 4, Element 220}.

As for claim 11, RIZZO discloses the method of claim 7, wherein said storing step comprises storing business attributes selected from the group consisting of

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business identity information, business description information, and communications information {See Fig. 3, Element 200}.

As for claim 12, RIZZO discloses the method of claim 11, wherein said establishing a communications link step comprises extracting said communications information from said business profile of at least one of said other businesses, and wherein said online business registry conforms to a Universal Description Discovery and Integration (UDDI) specification {See Fig. 5, Element 280}.

As for claim 13, which has the same limitations as in claim 5, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 5.

As for claim 14, which has the same limitation as in claim 6, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 6.

As for claim 15, RIZZO discloses a system for connecting businesses through business profiles comprising:

an online business registry configured to store business profiles for a plurality of participating businesses, said business profiles comprising business attributes {See Fig. 1A, Element 60};

a registration application configured to collect said business attributes of said business profiles and store said business profiles within said online business registry {See Fig. 1A, Element 80};

a search engine configured to receive queries and search said business profiles to locate at least one other business profile corresponding to said query, wherein one of

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said participating businesses utilizes said search engine to obtain information about another one of said participating businesses {See Fig. 1B, Element 250}; and

a communications engine configured to establish a communications link between at least two businesses of said participating businesses having profiles included in said online business registry, said communications link being established according to at least one business parameter within at least one of said business profiles associated with said at least two businesses {See Fig. 1B, Element 260}.

As for claim 16, RIZZO discloses a machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

Identifying a plurality of businesses to participate in an online business registry {See Fig. 5, Element 280};

storing business profiles comprising business attributes in an online business registry, wherein each business profile is associated with one of the identified businesses {Column 1, Lines 49-50, wherein this reads over “a plurality of data entry devices to the potential clients via a computer network”};

responsive to a query from an inquiring business, searching said online business registry to locate at least one business having a business profile including at least one business attribute corresponding to said query {Column 1, Lines 53-55, wherein this reads over “automatically comparing the received data to data stored in the storage medium to identify one or more suitable professional services providers”}; and



establishing at least one communications link between said inquiring business and said located business according to at least one business attribute of said business profile of said located business, wherein said identified businesses comprises said inquiring business and said located business {Column 1, Lines 59-61, wherein this reads over “receiving a response from at least one responding one of the one or more identified service providers”}.

As for claim 17, RIZZO discloses the machine-readable storage of claim 16, wherein said searching step comprises searching said online business registry according to said query, wherein said specified business attribute is common to said inquiring business {Column 1, Lines 61-63, wherein this reads over “automatically providing information indicative of another portion of the received data to the responding one of the service providers”}.

As for claim 18, RIZZO discloses the machine-readable storage of claim 16, wherein said storing step comprises storing business attributes selected from the group consisting of business identity information, business description information, and communications information {Column 3, Lines 60-63, wherein this reads over “a database query is preferably performed 260 to identify member law firms which satisfy the new matter requests which have been entered by potential clients”}.

As for claim 19, RIZZO discloses the machine-readable storage of claim 16, wherein said establishing a communications link step comprises extracting said communications information from said business profile of said located business, wherein said online business registry categorizes business profiles according to at least

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one of business function and market segment, and wherein said online business registry includes security features to restrict access to business profile information based upon established categories {Column 4, Lines 3-7, wherein this reads over "when law firms and attorneys are signed as members they preferably provide similar information about themselves as was entered 80 by the potential clients, e.g., of law firm, and e-mail address"}.

As for claim 20, RIZZO discloses the machine-readable storage according to claim 18, wherein said storing step further comprises:

defining access rights to said business profiles {Column 4, Lines 39-41, wherein this reads over "an ID and password corresponding to the member law firm or attorney attempting to access the new matter request information"};

defining permissible communications links and points of contact as business attributes within said business profiles {Column 4, Lines 47-49, wherein this reads over "the member may then decide to either not response at all to the request, download the information as text file using HTML link 370"}; and

defining selected business attributes of said business profiles as private {Column 8, Lines 5-6, wherein this reads over "user ID and password which must be entered before access will be allowed"}.

As for claim 21, RIZZO discloses the machine-readable storage of claim 18, wherein said establishing a communications link step further comprises authenticating at least said inquiring business, and wherein selected ones of said business attributes are exposed only to inquiring businesses having corresponding business attributes

{Column 8, Lines 7-8, wherein this reads over “the user ID and password can also be included in the URL link embedded in the e-mail”}.

As for claim 22, which has the same limitations as in claims 16 and 17, respectively, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claims 16 and 17, respectively.

As for claim 23, RIZZO discloses the machine-readable storage of claim 22, further comprising:

establishing a communications link between said inquiring business and at least one of said other businesses having a business attribute corresponding to said query, wherein the communication link is established according to business attributes of said at least one other business {Column 1, Lines 59-61, wherein this reads over “receiving a response from at least one responding one of the one or more identified service providers”}.

As for claim 24, RIZZO discloses the machine-readable storage of claim 22, wherein said locating step locates within said online business registry business profiles corresponding to said specified business attribute, wherein said specified business attribute is a business identity {Column 7, Lines 57-61, wherein this reads over “activated the URL link enables the receiving attorney to not only be forwarded to access the appropriate website, but to automatically access a dynamically generate webpage which includes further information about the case”}.

As for claim 25, which has the same limitation as in claim 17, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 17.

As for claim 26, which has the same limitation as in claim 18, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 18.

As for claim 27, which has the same limitation as in claim 19, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 19.

As for claim 28, which has the same limitation as in claim 20, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 20.

As for claim 29, which has the same limitation as in claim 21, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 21.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 07/26/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

RIZZO teaches that an entity that is querying an online businesses registry is also a participant of the online business registry in Fig. 5, Element 280. The respected members are from various online businesses registry that are also a participant of the online business registry.

### ***Conclusion***

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

No claims are allowed.

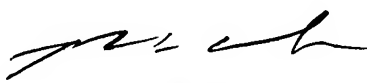
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cang (James) G. Thai whose telephone number is (571) 272-6499. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CGT  
10/01/2005

  
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